Comprehensive Plan for Ground Handling Operations

*291. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a comprehensive plan has been chalked out to restrict the number of players engaged in ground handling operations at the airports so as to eliminate the avoidable duplication of infrastructure and manpower by multiplicity of agencies, as also to cut down on choking conditions prevailing at peak hours; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In terms of Airports Authority of India (General Management Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000 notified on 17.1.2000, an operator or carrier may either carry out ground handling by itself or engaged the services of any of the (i) Airports Authority of India (AAI); (ii) Air India & Indian Airlines; (iii) Any other handling agency licensed by the AAI. A proposal to amend/review these guidelines is under examination.

Projects under artificial recharge of ground water

*292. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 174 projects in the States/Union Territories were taken up for construction of various recharge structures under the scheme of artificial recharge of ground water;

(b) if so, the details of the projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) by when, the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Under the Central Sector Scheme of "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" implemented by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) during the period 1998-2004, initially 174 demonstrative projects were taken up in 27 States/Union Territories. Subsequently, 9 projects were dropped due to various technical reasons and 165 projects were takenup.